

Fullness of Grace, Getty

1. Fullness of grace in man's human frailty;
This is the wonder of Jesus.
Laying aside His power and glory
Humbly He entered our world.
Chose the path of meanest worth;
Scandal of a virgin birth.
Born in a stable cold rejected;
Here lies the hope of the world.
2. Fullness of grace the love of the Father,
Shown in the face of Jesus.
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity;
Walking the Calvary road.
Christ, the Holy innocent
Took our sin and punishment.
Fullness of God, despised and rejected;
Crushed for the sins of the world.
3. Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for;
Promise of God in Jesus.
Through His obedience we are forgiven,
Opening the flood gates of Heaven.
All our hopes and dreams we bring
Gladly as an offering.
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable:
God's gift in love to the world.

The CONFESSION OF SINS

*O Lord, open my lips, **And my mouth will declare your praise.*** (Ps 51:15)

*Make haste, O God, to deliver me; **Make haste to help me, O Lord.*** (Ps 70:1)

*In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.*** (Mt 28:19)

*Our help is in the name of the Lord, **Who made heaven and earth.*** (Ps 124:8)

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. (Ps 130:3-4)

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have sinned against you in what we have done and in what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We deserve your present and eternal punishment but, in Christ, you have loved us with an everlasting love. For the sake of your Son our

Savior Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us and forgive us all our sins. By the Holy Spirit renew and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your light. Amen. (1 John 1:8-9)

Absolution (John 20:19-23)

Genesis 3:14–21 The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.” And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Romans 5:15–21 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one-man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 1:18–25 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will

save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

THE FIRST ARTICLE: CREATION

“I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that he has given me and still sustains my body and soul, all my limbs and senses, my reason and all the faculties of my mind, together with food and clothing, house and home, family and property; that he provides me daily and abundantly with all the necessities of life, protects me from all danger, and preserves me from all evil. All this he does out of his pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness on my part. For all of this I am bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey him. This is most certainly true.

THE SECOND ARTICLE: REDEMPTION

“And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell, the third day he rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God, the Father almighty, whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.”

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, delivered me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with silver and gold but with his holy and precious blood and with his innocent sufferings and death, in order that I may be his, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as he is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness

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1. Jesus thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress
Midst flaming worlds in these arrayed
With joy shall I lift up my head
2. Bold shall I stand in that great day
Cleansed and redeemed no debt to pay
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear from guilt and shame
3. Lord I believe thy precious blood
Which at the mercy-seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.
4. Lord I believe were sinners more,
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.
5. When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies
This then this shall be my only plea
Jesus hath lived hath died for me.
6. Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Sermon : Beginnings #3 – *The Promise*

Prayers

Holy Communion

Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

3. The Lord has promised good to me
His Word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

4. Through many dangers toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

5. Yea when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace

6. When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun